



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Michelle Udall (R-25)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Legislature Approves Bills Enabling More Flexible & Personalized Student-Centered Instructional Models for Arizona Schools

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – The Arizona House of Representatives today gave final approval to [HB 2862](#), legislation sponsored by State Representative Michelle Udall (R-25), chair of the House Education Committee, which allows school district governing boards and charter school governing bodies to develop and permanently adopt more flexible and student-centered instructional time models.

Such models were utilized temporarily during the pandemic-related school closures, under authority of an executive order of the governor, to provide students with required instructional time through modified courses, remote learning and student schedules. The executive order is set to expire this spring, and schools would need to revert to a one-size-fits-all model utilized before the pandemic.

“The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic led to an evolution in teaching and learning out of necessity,” said Representative Udall. **“In some cases, more productive ways were identified for schools to maximize student learning time, efficiently spend their funds, and better meet the needs of students and families. If the policy waivers that created this innovative environment expired, we would be throwing out good innovation that has helped students.”**

While not everything done during pandemic was successful, there were pockets of innovation that worked very well for students, teachers, and families. Udall’s legislation will enable best practices to be continued and schools to provide more student-centered learning opportunities and experiences on an ongoing basis.

“We have heard from school and education system leaders throughout Arizona of the need to preserve the best ideas that surfaced during the most challenging times in our schools’ history. This legislation delivers, empowering schools and leaders to continue transforming the state’s educational system into one that is more nimble and able to meet the needs of every student and family.”

HB 2862 has received strong bipartisan support. It was initially passed the House in March and cleared the Senate on April 13. Conforming language that was added in the Senate necessitated a final vote by the House.

The House also gave bipartisan final approval today to another Udall bill making possible more personalized learning opportunities for Arizona students. [HB 2135](#) allows required math courses to be broken up into smaller instructional segments so that students, particularly those who struggle with the subject, are able to better tackle them and earn credit in smaller, more manageable pieces.

Both bills will now be transmitted to the governor for his signature.

Michelle Udall is a Republican member of the Arizona House of Representatives serving Legislative District 25 in Mesa.

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